



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN DISPUTES GATES ON SOVIET JEWS

Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles) dismissed recent claims by Los Angeles Police Chief Darryl Gates that non-Jewish criminals are passing as Soviet Jewish emigres as "false, irresponsible, and dangerous."

Waxman expressed astonishment at the fact that neither Gates nor his investigators had checked their rumors with the FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Service, or the State Department. These federal agencies are charged with screening Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union. Spokesmen for all the federal authorities have said that they were never contacted by LAPD investigators. They also insist that they have no evidence to substantiate the charge that either Soviet agents or hardened criminals have entered the United States posing as Soviet Jewish refugees.

Waxman said,

"I do not think that Chief Gates harbors any anti-Semitic sentiments. He certainly went out of his way to indicate that the alleged criminals are not Jewish themselves. He also made it clear that he was referring to a small number of individuals. Nevertheless, I feel the Chief exercised extremely poor judgment.

"Soviet Jews in Los Angeles are trying to learn a difficult new language, adjust to a new society, and obtain jobs and housing during a period of sharp economic downturn. The last thing in the world they need is the additional handicap of being suspected of being criminals or spys. I am certain that anti-Semitic groups will distort Chief Gates words to serve their purposes. In view of the recent sharp increase in anti-Semitic incidents, public officials must be more careful than ever in making comments about the Jewish community."

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